We claim:

1   1.   A method, comprising:

2   receiving data in a presentation buffer of a presentation controller;

3   receiving a request from a requestor to read the data in the presentation buffer;

4   deleting the data from the presentation buffer in response to the request; and

5   not delivering the data to the requestor in response to the request.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the presentation controller is a graphics

2   controller and the presentation buffer is a frame buffer.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein receiving data includes placing the presentation

2   controller in a security mode.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein deleting the data includes taking the

2   presentation controller out of the security mode.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein not delivering the data includes delivering data

2   other than the data requested.

1   6.   A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when

2   executed by at least one processor cause said at least one processor to perform:

3   receiving data in a presentation buffer of a presentation controller;

4   receiving a request from a requestor to read the data in the presentation buffer;

5   deleting the data from the presentation buffer in response to the request; and

6   not delivering the data to the requestor in response to the request.

1   7.   The medium of claim 6, wherein the presentation controller is a graphics

2   controller and the presentation buffer is a frame buffer.

1   8.   The medium of claim 6, wherein receiving data includes placing the

2   presentation controller in a security mode.

1   9.   The medium of claim 6, wherein deleting the data includes taking the

2   presentation controller out of the security mode.

1   10.   The medium of claim 6, wherein not delivering the data includes delivering data

2   other than the data requested.

1   11.   An apparatus, comprising:

2   a presentation controller having:

3   a presentation buffer;

4   a command handler to process commands and addresses;

5   a data handler coupled to the presentation buffer to monitor data and to

6   pass at least a part of the data to the presentation buffer;

7   a security violation detector to detect a request by a requestor to read

8   protected data in the presentation buffer; and

9   a data protector coupled to the data handler to prevent providing the

10   protected data to the requestor.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the data protector is further to purge the

2 protected data from the presentation buffer upon detection of the request to read

3 protected data.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the presentation controller is a graphics

2 controller and the presentation buffer is a frame buffer.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the presentation controller includes a by-

2 pass mode that does not prevent providing the protected data to the requestor.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data protector:

2 is to purge the protected data from the presentation buffer upon detection of the

3 request to read protected data; and

4 is to place the presentation controller in the by-pass mode after said purge.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the data protector is to deliver data other

2 than the data requested.

1 17. A system, comprising:

2 a presentation circuit including:

3 an input interface to receive data;

4 an output port to transmit data for presentation;

5 a presentation buffer coupled to the output port;

6 a presentation controller coupled to the presentation buffer and to the

7 input interface and having:

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8   a command handler to process commands and addresses; and

9   a data handler to monitor data and to pass at least a part of the

10   data to the presentation buffer;

11   a security violation detector to detect a request by a requestor to

12   read protected data in the presentation buffer; and

13   a data protector to prevent providing the protected data to the

14   requestor.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein the data protector is further to purge the

2   protected data from the presentation buffer upon detection of the request to read

3   protected data.

1   19.   The system of claim 17, wherein the presentation controller is a graphics

2   controller and the presentation buffer is a frame buffer.

1   20.   The system of claim 17, wherein the presentation controller includes a by-pass

2   mode that does not prevent providing the protected data to the requestor.

1   21.   The system of claim 20, wherein the data protector:

2   is to purge the protected data from the presentation buffer upon detection of the

3   request to read protected data; and

4   is to place the presentation controller in the by-pass mode after said purge.

1   22.   The system of claim 17, wherein the data protector is to deliver data other than

2   the data requested.

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